



The Ag and I

The NDAAE

Volume 50 Issue 1

"Going to Kansas City...Again" by Glen Huettl—NDAAE President Elect

Inside this issue:

Back to KCMO. Mother Nature dealt the ACTE and NAAE National Conventions a surprise. The last minute change in location from New Orleans to Kansas City has gone very smooth. This is a small adjustment compared to the effects felt by the residents of the Louisiana and Mississippi region. I am excited to return to KC after making many trips to that area for the FFA Convention. The NAAE/ACTE Ag. Ed. Division Convention is slated for December 6-10. A number of NAAE Bylaw amendments are being proposed this year. The most notable amendment calls for the elimination of new Life Memberships in the NAAE. Other changes proposed include increasing dues for student and business members.

Thanks again to all the members who helped make the 2005 Region III Conference at Beulah a success. Great show.

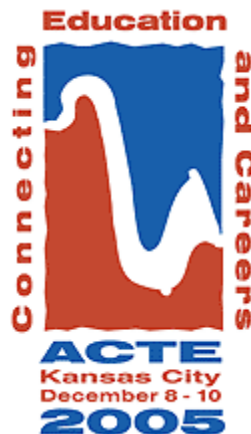
It was great to see the large number of board members attend the October meeting in Grand Forks. The minutes of that meeting are included in this issue, please review and note any corrections.

Thank you to Tim for the excellent summer conference photos. Brenda Herring gets a thank you for doing an excellent job on two things; one is layout of our Ag & I, and two is patiently teaching FFA Advisors how to complete their rosters.

Have a great year!!

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2005 NAAE Convention



"Coal without Clinkers"

by Tim Aichele—NDAAE President

Teaching agriculture to middle school and high school students is quite a privilege when you step back and think about it. Sometimes we dwell too much on the frustrating elements of the profession. My article is to provide anyone who reads this with just one idea to help eliminate one potentially frustrating situation. The unit of instruction is painting and finishing. The frustration is dealing with brushes. Just thinking of teenagers with open cans of paint and brushes out in the ag. shop makes my blood pressure rise a bit. Here at Beulah we made a change last year that has put the responsibility on the students. We assign all painting and finishing as homework. Just kidding. Paint brush management was the focus and bristle brushes were the solution to the problem.

After years of finding brushes by the sink soaking in a pail of water, or rock hard brushes left on a bench or in a paper towel, we went to foam brushes and tried to get the kids to get several uses out of one before tossing it. We seemed to go through a lot of brushes and at .50 to .75 a piece and wondered if using foam brushes was cheaper or not. Last year we decided to go back to using bristle brushes and have the kids clean and reuse them. Now we buy one 2" brush for each student and they are responsible for it. If it gets ruined or lost, they can purchase one from the department or bring one from home. This concept really works. Students label their brushes without being told and they seem much more interested in proper brush cleaning techniques than ever before. I know we are saving money over using the foam brushes and even the cheaper bristle brushes seem to do a fine job of finishing. The real lesson I have taken from this – and I have seen it in many other situations- is there is really no substitute for private ownership when trying to get someone to be responsible.

I guess to make this article more philosophical, I could extend this principle to many other situations but I will let the reader take it where you want. Bottom line is one bristle brush per student is an idea that works!

NDACTE Awards— PDC Conference



Directors Award of Excellence

Jay Olson, Devils Lake;
Kevin Misk, Langdon

NDAAE Awards— PDC Conference



5-Year Recognition

Don Hagen & Craig Zimprich, with Larry
Fuller of Cenex Harvest States Coop.



10-Year Recognition

Chad Vander Laan, Keith Bohn, &
John Cote with Larry Fuller of
Cenex Harvest States Coop.

A North Dakota Ag Teacher Evaluates the Northwest ND Diversified Ag Tour

by Matthew Mootz

I found this educational experience to be a great partnership between the North Dakota Agriculture in the Classroom Program and the North Dakota Geographic Alliance. The tour provided North Dakota teachers an excellent opportunity to meet with farmers and ranchers, agriculture processors and suppliers, and North Dakota Department of Agriculture staff members. As an agriculture educator I learned a lot about areas of agriculture that I have had minimal exposure and I gained a greater depth of knowledge in those areas that I have had extensive experience.

There is great growth potential for this type of agriculture tour. North Dakota education (administrators, teachers, and others school employees) and North Dakotans in general (community members and parents), have an opportunity to learn about the wide range of agricultural activities that take place in North Dakota. North Dakota is a great state with agriculture as the main industry. Yet, in this state we have a growing population of North Dakotans who are becoming more “distant” concerning the activities of production agriculture. There is a need to make this “distant” population aware of what North Dakota agriculture does and offers.

I was especially impressed with the produce growers, the product they produce and the income they generate. I did not realize North Dakotans could earn a living on 20 acres in North Dakota by growing produce. The produce growers in the Minot area and in many other North Dakota regions have revitalized the Farmers Market. This is a natural step North Dakota farmers have taken in developing a local market place for their produce.

Tom Hansen who teaches in Minot and who also works with North Dakota Farm Management discussed with the tour group statistics for “average North Dakota farms” and provided us with an introduction to the tour. The numbers he provided were quite reflective of North Dakota farm operations and covered inputs, outputs, owned land, rented land, nearly every situation that occurs in North Dakota agricultural production. Did you know the average farm size in North Dakota is about 2000 acres?

An example of an average farm in North Dakota is Rockeman Hereford Farm and Ranch. As a diversified farm, there is reliance on more than one type of agriculture income. The Rockeman Farm and Ranch has crop production, livestock production, does some custom work, and does not rely on any off-farm income. The Rockeman Farm is 2000 acres, has very good cash flow, and is operated by four Rockeman family members, mom and dad and two children. Both children are interested in pursuing farming as a career and each has achievements in agriculture that has earned them awards.



In contrast to the large diverse Rockeman Farm is the 20-acre farm of Craig Triplett. Triplett’s farm income is primarily derived from onions and carrots. Production also includes flowers, zucchini, cucumbers, and corn. The 20-acre Triplett farm has a similar annual income as a 2000-acre diversified farm. The difference is in the amount of assets. The diversified farm may have a more stable cash flow because it is not dependent on a single or small number of commodities.

Another interesting type of production agriculture enterprise is “Turkey Farming”. John Cook manages a grain and turkey farm. Between April and November his farm produces 60,000 turkeys. The primary feed is damaged grain from area sources. The turkeys are raised in batches of 30,000. Each batch takes about three months to grow. The baby turkeys or “poults” arrive as one day olds and consume about 75 pounds of feed to reach maturity. One 30,000 batch of turkeys consumes 2,250,000 pounds of feed in three months (close to 375,000 bushels of grain).

Turkeys sound like they are big eaters yet their feed to meat conversion rate is more efficient than that at our next stop—an elk farm. The Wapiti Elk Ranch raises elk for meat, calves for resale, and horns for medicinal purposes. High, sturdy fencing is a must for this native North Dakota prairie grazer. As a grazer, hundreds of acres of grass with miles of fencing are required.



ND Diversified Ag Tour (con't)

by Matthew Mootz

Premier Pulse Marketing is business that Greg Johnson built from the ground up. Peas and lentils utilize rhizobium bacteria at the roots to “fix” nitrogen from the air into the soil. The term “pulse” is latin for nitrogen producers, thus the general term pulse crops. Pulse marketing exports their entire product as food for foreign buyers. In proper rotation with other crops, pulse crops may offset the need for nitrogen fertilizer. The need for chemicals in most agricultural production enterprises is the safest and most cost effective way to produce crops. In addition to seeing peas and lentils being processed and readied for shipment we also saw peas being harvested in the field.



Sheresky Agriculture Chemical service utilizes high wheel sprayers to support area farmers. Gahlen Sheresky began as a bank loan officer and after seven years of processing loans, his need for a more direct involvement in agriculture pushed him to start Sheresky Ag Chemical Service. With over a million dollars invested and the endless record keeping that goes with chemical applications, his background as a bank loan officer is still being utilized.

From high wheel sprayers to high riders! The popularity of horses in the United States has some of its roots with the Bonnie Rupp Arabian Horse Farm and Ranch. Bonnie Rupp has been producing quality Arabian horses for over thirty years. For a long time she held on to her best Arabians until she was forced to come to a realization, “If you hang on to everything that is good, you have a lot of horses and no money.” “You have to sell what you produce,” she said. “That took me a long time to accept.” Ever since Bonnie has been raising Arabian horses, she has had quality stock. Only since she kept what was needed for a viable breeding herd, has she had financial freedom.

Not all agriculture involves big eaters like turkeys or animals that require lots of fenced in acreage like elk.

Last year North Dakota was the nation’s number one producer of honey (North Dakota and California typically compete for that number one producer status). The queens, drones and workers provide a very significant economic impact to agriculture as well as a very important service of pollination. Pure alfalfa and clover honey is white. Most honey sold in stores is yellow or golden, indicating the honey has been blended with honey from other crops. Tour participants were told that bee stings while painful and in rare occasions even life threatening, do appear to provide temporary relief from the pain of arthritis. Some allergy sufferers also report less allergic symptoms after a bee sting. Of course, those that are allergic to bee stings can suffer very severe consequences.

I was very impressed with the quality of tours, the organization of the events, the bus study /worksheet time, and the teachers that attended this year’s agricultural tour.

This type of agriculture field trip experience is a must for all North Dakota teachers with an interest in learning about North Dakota Agriculture.



As I walked into the Maddock Ag Mechanics Shop Monday, November 14th, there was a sense of loss. Even though John C. (Cliff) Simek had retired in 1983 and had not been teaching in the Maddock School for the past twenty-two years; I could still envision Cliff in the shop in his blue shop coat ‘barking’ out instructions and reprimands to his Ag Mechanic students. Cliff was in the Maddock School for thirty-six years from 1947 until his retirement in 1983. I had the privilege of teaching with Cliff for the last six of those years. At the State FFA Convention in June 1983, Cliff and I were on stage for the State Star Farmer Presentation and the State Officers presented Cliff with a Birthday cake along with all the FFA members, parents, and guests singing Happy 67th birthday to him. Cliff leaned over to me and stated, “this might be the way to go out.” He had not told anyone that he was retiring, but he came back to Maddock after that convention, turned in his keys, and headed to his car and drove south to Fullerton, where his family resided. At a Maddock High School Alumni Banquet held in April of 1983 to honor Cliff for thirty-five years of dedication to the Maddock High School over 600 people showed up. Maddock only has a population of around 500 so they came out in force.

Cliff was never one to seek honors or praise. When Cliff and Curt Jensen were being honored at the All Service Conference for thirty-five years of Service, they both went to the Ice Follies instead being held in Bismarck and told me to pick up the plaque if they gave one. Many of his students were either State Winners in the Ag Mechanics Contests or received high Gold awards. He did not necessarily praise these students or put their projects on display. In fact what was placed on Cliff’s bulletin boards were drawings from the grade school kids who gave Cliff pictures that they had drawn. Cliff was an educator and Ag Mechanics Teacher and he expected all of his students to be able to excel in a mechanics contest. There were students of Cliff’s that were not Valedictorian of their class because they did not get an ‘A’ from Cliff. I remember one year I was registering students for the FFA contests at State and trying to select our Advanced Ag Mechanic student as our top senior had gone South Combining; I mentioned to Cliff that I would put one of the Juniors in the contest and he stated to me, “What for, I gave him a D- last Semester. Well this Junior ended up second in the State; and was 12th high individual in the Nation.

This past year, I have had this unerring feeling to get down to Fullerton and see Cliff. After hearing from his niece this fall that Cliff was in the nursing home in Oaks and not doing very well, I knew that I had to make it a priority to visit him; so on November 11th (Veterans Day) Becky and I drove to Oaks to visit Cliff. He was not feeling well and was in a lot of pain but after he was put to bed, I knelt beside the bed and we talked and reminisced about former students and teachers in Maddock. Cliff could remember a story about every one. Two days later I received a phone call that Cliff had passed away.

With thirty-six years of teaching, hundreds of students passed under Cliff’s instruction. The enjoyment is to be with a group of former students from different classes. The stories can go on for hours. Nine student teachers passed through the Maddock Ag Ed Program those last six years of Cliff’s reign. Everyone of them stated to me that they learned more in that short period from Cliff as far as teaching high school Ag Mechanics then they had at the University during their three or four years.

When I look at the local Mechanic Shops here in Maddock, I can see Cliff’s influence as many of the mechanics are former students of his. A former student and local farmer told me recently, “Not a day goes by when I am in the farm shop working on a project that a mechanic skill taught by J C Simek is not used.

Cliff is gone, but he will not be forgotten and where ever former students or teaching comrades meet, there will be many stories and laughter for years to come.



NDAAE Executive Board Meeting Minutes

by Troy Enga, NDAAE Secretary

Minutes:Fall Teachers Convention

Date: October 20th, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President Tim Aichele at 11:05 AM at the Suite 49 restaurant in Grand Forks.

Members present:	Tim Aichele	Glen Huettl	Tony Boehm
	Troy Enga	Amanda Buynak	Lane Moellenkamp
	Kelly Finke	Jason Mongeon	Myron Johs
	Pete Martin	Kevin Misek	Don Hagen
	Rick Vannett	Gary Wald	Larry Kaul
	Dan Walsvik	Matt Mootz	Max Danner
	Levi Reese		

Treasurers report was handed out by Tim from Jason. The treasurers report was approved after some discussion on membership dues. Jason's report stated that we are down on active and student members. The group discussed what need to be done to make sure everyone that wants to join is joining the association. The vice presidents of each district are to check with Jason and find out the names of the people not joining and contact them to find out why they are not paying their dues. Also, the association will pick up the fees for the student teachers. Tony is checking into who these people are.

Glen Huettl reported on the *Ag and I*. He stated that the deadline for this is in November. He is going to try to keep it away from any convention schedules so Brenda does not have as many conflicts with it.

Tim discussed the ACTE/NAAE National Convention. He stated that it has been moved from New Orleans to Kansas City. The NAAE will be staying in the Crown Center Plaza and the ACTE meetings will be held downtown at the convention center where the National FFA Convention was held. There are possibly four or five members planning on attending. Tony Boehm also mentioned that there are seven different things up for discussion at the convention. These are mostly related to dues and membership items. If you have any concerns about these, you should let Tim or Glen know for voting purposes at the convention.

The NDACTE report was given by Lane Moellenkamp. He stated that the NDACTE picked the new professional \$100 matching funds for attending the nation convention. There were 4 picked this year. Two of these came from the Ag Education area. They were Amanda Buynak and Jeremy Carkuff. Lane Moellenkamp moved to pay \$100 per person from the NDAAE match. (Myron Johs) Motion carried. Lane also stated that the new Executive Director is D'Aulon Bussman. Lane mentioned that the NDAAE is looked upon very highly in the NDACTE. We have the highest number of members that also belong to the ACTE and NDACTE.

Tim reminded the district vice presidents' to remind the members to turn in award applications at the winter leadership conference in Bismarck. The applications can be found on the NAAE website.

We are also looking to get applications or a person interested in serving as the Assistant Treasurer as Amanda is our new Treasurer. If interested let Tim or Glen know.

Jason Mongeon moved to adjourn meeting. (Amanda Buynak) Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM. The group then met at the State Mill, for a tour, that begin at 1:30 PM

NDAAE Awards—All-Service Conference



Dodge Teachers Turn the Key
JoDee Free presenting award to
Amanda Buynak.



Cenex Harvest States Scholarships
Larry Lueck, Lance VanBerkom,
Levi Reese, Dave Axt, Aaron Ander-
son, Jerry Wettlaufer, Jeremy Car-
cuff, & Larry Fuller of Cenex Har-
vest States



Adult Educator of the Year
Neil Halley presenting award to
Virgil Dagman.



Outstanding Service Citation
Tony Boehm presenting award to
Butch Haugland.



Secondary Teacher of the Year
Neil Halley presenting award to Wade
Anderson.



Outstanding Young Member
JoDee Free presenting award to Craig
Zimprich..



My Creed
Tony Boehm presenting award to
Jory Hansen.



Outstanding Ag Ed Program
Neil Halley presenting award to
Aaron Anderson.

NDAAE Awards—All-Service Conference



Distinguished Service Award
Neil Halley presenting award to Carol Aichele.



Distinguished Service Award
Neil Halley presenting award to Jim Tessmer.



2005-06 NDAAE Officers
(Standing) Kevin Misek, Don Hagen, Lane Moellenkamp, Jason Mongeon, Shawn Feiring, Aaron Anderson, Myron Johs, Dave Axt, Pete Martin.
(Seated) Virgin Dagman, Tony Boehm, Glen Huettl, Troy Enga, Tim Aichele, Amanda Buynak, & Kelly Finck.



25-Year Recognition
Wade Anderson and Ken Votava with Larry Fuller of Cenex Harvest States.



20 Year Recognition
Larry Lueck and Mark Holkup with Larry Fuller of Cenex Harvest States.



15-Year Recognition
Neil Halley and Lane Moellenkamp with Larry Fuller of Cenex Harvest States.



30-Year Recognition
Virgil Dagman, Brad Tews, & Doug Vannurden.



35-Year Recognition
Jerry Tuhy with Larry Fuller of Cenex Harvest States.

The NDAAE

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We're on the web:
<http://www.nd.gov/cte/>

Highlights from National FFA Convention in Louisville

Congratulations goes out to two of our Educators for having the honor of receiving the Honorary American Degree. They are:



Wade Anderson
Harvey



Kevin Nelson
Hebron

Of course, not all was serious business. Throughout the week of October 26-30, many of the chapters tried to take in as many events and tours and favorite restaurants as possible since this was the last year the convention would be held in Louisville, KY. It seems that the most favorite place to eat was JOE'S CRAB SHACK. Guests get to run around and dance, really get into the feel of the place. Since the convention usually coincides with Halloween, they even provide costumes for patrons to wear. I see Scott Thiel is getting into the mood for Halloween.

